Radiation Emitted from Jaduguda mines in Bihar

†921. SHRI PREMCHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that the radiation emitted from the uranium mines of Jadugoda in South Bihar is harmful to heatlh of the local people; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, operates three underground uranium mines and a uranium processing plant at Jaduguda and in the neighbouring areas in the East Singhbhum District of south Bihar. Right from the start of its operations, UCIL has put in place measures necessary for radiological safety and the radiation levels at Jaduguda and in the surrounding areas are well within the permissible limits laid down for this purpose by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. In addition, for systematic and effective monitoring of the radiation levels in and around the mines/mill, a well-equipped Helath Physics Unit-cum-Environmental Survey Laboratory of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), which is indepedent of the UCIL, has been in operation at Jaduguda since the inception of the UCIL. The scientists of this Unit, qualified and trained in the field of radiological safety and protection, regularly measure the radioactivity in the area, maintain constant surveillance on environmental releases and undertake measurements of pollutants in the atmospheric and aquatic systems of the environment in and around Jaduguda. The measurements and studies conducted periodically by the Health Physics Unit-cum-Environmental Survey Laboratory reveal that the radiation levels measured in and around Jaduguda match those at locations surrounding the area and that there is no adverse impact on account of UCIL's operations on the local people or the environment, including plants, fish, food, water earth, etc. in the area.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.